

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1147

By McNally

A RESOLUTION relative to sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.

WHEREAS, Russia's heinous, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine has brought death and despair to the Ukrainian people and threatened the peace and security of Europe; and

WHEREAS, many Western nations, including the United States, have imposed sanctions against Russian banks, but in the face of this blatant warmongering, the "nuclear option" of banking, the full removal of Russian banks from international finance infrastructure, should be invoked; and

WHEREAS, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) was founded in 1973 to replace the telex and is now used by more than 11,000 financial institutions to send secure messages and payment orders; because there is no globally accepted alternative, SWIFT is essential infrastructure for global finance; and

WHEREAS, fully removing Russia from SWIFT would make it nearly impossible for financial institutions to transfer money in or out of the country, delivering a sudden shock to Russian companies and their foreign customers, especially buyers of oil and gas exports denominated in U.S. dollars; and

WHEREAS, according to experts, fully excluding Russia from SWIFT would terminate all international transactions, trigger currency volatility, cause massive capital outflows, and result in the Russian economy shrinking by an estimated five percent; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent for banning from SWIFT a nation that has thumbed its nose at the European Union; Iranian banks were disconnected from SWIFT in 2012 after they were sanctioned by the European Union over the country's nuclear program; and

WHEREAS, the efficacy of such sanctions was proven when Iran lost almost half of its oil export revenue and thirty percent of its foreign trade following the disconnection; and

WHEREAS, the Foreign Minister of Ukraine has urged that Russia be banned from SWIFT, and we agree that this is an appropriate response to the nation's cynical attack on Ukraine's sovereignty and the future peace and prosperity of Europe and all of Western democracy; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we urge and encourage President Biden and the United States Congress to utilize all available options to effect the full removal of Russian financial institutions from SWIFT as an appropriate and effective sanction against Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge and encourage President Biden to immediately expel from the United States all Russian diplomatic personnel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge and encourage President Biden and the United States Congress to immediately ban all imports from Russia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; the President and the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.